

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 MCT-01 /089 W
-----023000 210748Z /21

P R 201521Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8644
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4664

LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, GH
SUBJ: OPPOSITION TO ACHEAMPONG MOUNTS

REF: ACCRA 4595

1. LAWYERS AND UNVIERSTY OF GHANA (LEGO) FACULTY MEMBERS HAVE
ADDED THEMSELVES TO GROWING LIST OF GROUPS WHO HAVE
STRUCK IN PROTEST AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS POLICIES
IN AFTERMATH OF GOG PERSONNEL CHANGES ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK.
AT CONVOCATION JUNE 17 FACULTY AT LEGON DECIDED FLATLY
TO STOP WORKING UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT STEPS DOWN. WE
HAVE NOT DETERMINED IF OTHER CAMPUS FACULTIES FOLLOWED
SUIT BUT EXPECT THAT THEY WILL. THE BAR ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY THAT THEY WOULD STRIKE IN PROTEST
AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICIES "UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE". WHILE
GENERAL DISSAFFECTION FROM THE ACHEAMPONG GOVERNMENT IS
AT THE HEART OF THIS ACTION, LAWYERS ARE FOCUSING THEIR
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PROTEST ON THE SUMMARY DISMISSALS OF CHIEF JUSTIC AZU-
CRABBE AND BANK OF GHANA GOVERNOR NIKOI, AND PROBABLY
WILL CONTINUE STRIKE UNTIL THEY ARE RE-INSTATED.

2. THERE WERE NO STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND,
BUT STUDENTS ARE REPORTEDLY GEARING THEMSELVES UP FOR A
SUSTAINED CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE

NO INTENTION OF RETURNING TO CLASS (WHICH IS ACADEMIC NOW THAT FACULTY IS OUT) BUT CONTINUE TO HOLD MEETINGS TO PLAN CONCERTED ANTI-GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. PAPERS REPORTED 20 JUNE THAT ONE MAN WAS BEATEN AND HIS CAR BURNED WHEN FOUND BY STUDENTS ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 17 WITH NO GOOD REASON FOR BEING ON LEGON CAMPUS. THEY SAID HE WAS SPYING.

3. MORE OMINOUSLY, WE HAVE RECEIVED REPORTS THAT MILITARY OFFICERS, PARTICULARLY NORTHERNERS, ARE VERY DISGRUNTLED WITH DISMISSALS OF DZANG, HAMIDU AND NUNOO-MENSAH AND ARE MEETING AMONG THEMSELVES TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ACTION AGAINST ACHEAMPONG. ALL THREE OFFICERS ARE POPULAR AND HAVE GOOD REPUTATIONS, UNLIKE THE MORE UNSAVORY TYPES ACHEAMPONG HAS BEEN ABLE TO DISPATCH IN THE PAST.

4. ONE SEEMINGLY BRIGHT SPOT FOR ACHAMONG IS THAT DOCTORS RETURNED TO WORK JUNE 17 AFTER ACHEAMPONG RELENTED AND RE-INSTATED DOCTORS BADDOE AND DODU TO MEDICAL SCHOOL. EVEN THIS FRAUGHT WITH PROBLEMS AS THE VARIOUS DISSIDENT GROUPS WILL CERTAINLY SENSE THE GOVERNMENT'S OVERALL WEAKNESS IN CAVING IN TO A STRIKE BARELY ONE DAY OLD. ACHEAMPONG, HAS, IN FACT, PROBABLY MANEUVERED HIMSELF INTO A DILEMMA. LEADING CIVILIAN ELITES NOW OPENLY OPPOSE HIM WHILE MANY MILITARY OFFICERS ARE FED UP WITH HIM AS WELL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULAR RESENTMENT, PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, POLITICAL STRIKES
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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ACCRA04664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770220-1040
Format: TEL
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770641/aaaabjxs.tel
Line Count: 95
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ACCRA 4595
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2101150
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION TO ACHEAMPONG MOUNTS
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, GH, (ACHEAMPONG, IGNATIUS KUTU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb5f827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009